

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS REVIEW

**FOR A PROPOSED ADDITION PROJECT
FOR AN
HISTORIC GOTHIC REVIVAL CHURCH**

Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

161 North Murphy Avenue
Sunnyvale, California
(Parcel Number 204-49-031)

For:

Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church
161 North Murphy Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Prepared by:

**A R C H I V E S & A R C H I T E C T U R E
HERITAGE RESOURCE PARTNERS**

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Leslie A. G. Dill, Partner and Historic Architect

April 13, 2005

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

Except for the following recommendations, which can be addressed by conditions of approval, the proposed project appears consistent with the Standards.

The following design changes and clarifications are recommended:

- Clarify that the size of the addition shall be narrower than the original building
- Change the proposed aluminum finish from white to bronze anodized
- Change the proposed base panel color from white to a painted finish that matches the church
- Change the proposed simulated skip-trowel finish to a stippled/sand finish base panel
- Specify that the shingles shall match the church roof.
- Provide basic landscaping design of landscaping that confirms the preservation of the setting

Report Intent

Archives & Architecture: Heritage Resource Partners (A&A) was retained by the Saint Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church to conduct a Historic Resource Design Review of a proposed greenhouse room addition project at the historic Gothic-revival style church at 161 North Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, California. Archives & Architecture was asked to review the exterior elevations and site plan of the project to determine if the proposed project is in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* (Standards). The Standards are understood to be a common set of guidelines for the review of historic buildings, and the Standards are used by many communities during the environmental review process to determine the potential impact of a project on an identified resource.

Qualifications

Leslie A. G. Dill, Partner of the firm Archives & Architecture, has a Master of Architecture with a certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia. She is licensed in California as an architect. Ms. Dill is listed with the Northwest Information Center of the California State Office of Historic Preservation as meeting the requirements to perform identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment activities within the professions of Historic Architect and Architectural Historian in compliance with state and federal environmental laws. The Northwest Information Center utilizes the criteria of the National Park Service as outlined in 36 CFR Part 61.

Review Methodology

For this report A&A partners Leslie Dill and Franklin Maggi reviewed the Department of Parks and Recreation form 523 (DPR 523) prepared by Urban/Rural Conservation for the City of Sunnyvale and dated September 1979, conducted some original research to verify the significance and original configuration of the church, and visited and photographed the site; then Ms. Dill evaluated a proposed design according to the Standards. The design was submitted as an undated set of sketches including, floor plan, elevations, and cut sheets; accompanying these drawings was an estimate sheet that additionally identifies proposed materials; it is dated 03/31/06. The design was provided by Four Seasons Remodeling Center, American Brands Corporation Unlimited. Ms Dill also communicated directly with the Four Seasons Remodeling Center, to obtain additional clarification regarding proposed materials.

Historic Status of Property:

The property is currently listed on the Sunnyvale Heritage Resources Inventory.

Urban/Rural Conservation stated the local architectural and historical significance of the subject property in the DPR form prepared in September 1979 for the Sunnyvale Cultural Resources Survey. The building, referred to as Temple La Hermosa at the time of the evaluation, is described as "...Sunnyvale's only remaining older church. It is significant for its historical associations and its Gothic Revival style."

Additional research done specifically for this report indicates that the building appears on this site sometime between 1930 and 1943, according to Sanborn insurance maps that identified its use as "Revival Meetings."

Disclaimers

The design for this project is currently in the development phase, and any final construction documents should be reviewed for consistency with this initial review. This report addresses the project plans in terms of historically compatible design. The consultant has not undertaken and will not undertake an evaluation or report on the structural conditions or other related safety hazards that might or might not exist at the site and building, and will not review the proposed project for structural soundness or other safety concerns. The consultant has not undertaken analysis of the site to evaluate the potential for subsurface resources. The design review is generally limited to the exterior of the building.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**Character of the Existing Resource:**

The 1979 documentation sheet describes the building as "...Sunnyvale's only example of the Gothic Revival style. Rectangular in plan, a shingled, front gable roof covers the entry. A higher gabled roof covers the nave. Lancet windows, a hallmark of the style, flank the lancet arch entrance and line the side elevations. Stained glass accents the simple Gothic detailing and clapboards cover the exterior.

The church building has undergone some modifications since the 1979 DPR form illustration. Nevertheless, the form of the building, with its steeply pitched gabled main roof, the lower, gabled entry roof, and the lancet windows remain. Previous changes include new wide-board siding that conceals the original clapboards, the addition of a cantilevered roof over the front door, and the addition of a bell tower above the center of the entry. The windows are glazed with translucent pebble glass.

Summary of the Proposed Project:

The proposed addition project, as presented in the current set of architectural drawings noted above, includes removal of a small amount of non-original siding to provide roof flashing connections, and the construction of a large, one-story greenhouse-type room at the rear (west) of the building.

SECRETARY'S STANDARD'S REVIEW:

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, originally published in 1977 and revised in 1990, include ten standards that present a recommended approach to repair, while preserving those portions or features that convey a resource's historical, cultural, or architectural values. Following is a summary of the review with a list of the Standards and associated analysis for this project:

Analysis

1. **"A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships."**

Analysis:

The use of this building and site do not change for this project.

2. **"The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided."**

Analysis:

The proposed project is consistent with this Standard. The area at the rear of the building had previously been paved as a patio and fenced, not open space or landscaped specially, so there is no loss of setting. The connection of the new wing to the existing building will impact only the non-original cladding at the rear, and there is no original fenestration, so no character-defining features will be affected.

3. **"Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken."**

Analysis:

No changes are proposed that might be mistaken for original features.

4. **"Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved."**

Analysis:

No changes to the building have been identified as having acquired historic significance in their own right. Known modifications are recent (post-1979).

5. **"Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved."**

Analysis:

The features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the property are generally preserved in this proposal.

6. **“Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.”**

Analysis:

The project plans do not address the repair or replacement of deteriorated original features; the project proposed is solely an addition project.

7. **“Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.”**

Analysis:

No chemical or physical treatments are proposed in this project.

8. **“Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.”**

Analysis:

Archeological resources are not evaluated in this report.

9. **“New additions, exterior alterations or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.”**

Analysis:

The proposed addition has a clearly different character than the original church building; it is smaller in size and massing, has different roof pitch and height, and it is built of glass, aluminum and textured paneling rather than wood-frame construction with traditional horizontal siding. It is compatible through its simplicity of form, its gabled roof, and its consistent roof materials. The proportions of the addition are visually subordinate to the main building; the addition is narrower than the original church (see below), allowing the entire footprint of the original building to be perceived, including all four corners; the addition roof is lower, allowing the original roofline to remain prominent from all directions. The addition, with recommendations itemized below, will not detract from the original church design.

There is one discrepancy in the drawing dimensions that needs to be addressed. The plan graphically shows the addition narrower than the original building, but the dimensions show the addition to be 22', the same as the existing building. It is recommended that the width of the proposed addition be reduced to less than 22' to maintain the original building as the primary structure.

Some of the currently proposed materials of the addition are not compatible with the historic resource; minor changes would bring the proposed addition in compliance with the Standards:

The currently proposed white aluminum finish with white paneling would be very bright and shiny; this color and material combination would draw attention to the addition, away from the historic building. It is recommended that the finish material of the aluminum be changed to bronze anodized. This color would recede visually, and would blend with the roof color and trim color of the main building. It is also recommended that the panels be painted to match the off-white color of the church, or to match the trim; white would be incompatible.

The simulated skip-trowel finished paneling proposed for the addition is not compatible with the smooth siding and traditional design of the historic building. It is recommended that a smooth finish be provided; apparently, a stippled/sand finish base panel is available.

It is recommended that the drawings clearly state that the proposed roof shingles on the addition shall match the church shingles. (This is understood, but not currently documented.)

It is recommended that a landscaping design be provided that confirms the preservation of the setting and possibly provides some screening for the new building.

10. **“New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.”**

Analysis:

The essential form and integrity of the historic property would be maintained in this project; the addition as presented would be easily reversible.



This simple one story, redwood framed Carpenter Gothic Chapel was moved to Sunnyvale from Milpitas or Santa Clara shortly before World War Two. Originally used as a Four Square Gospel Church, it also has served as the Temple La Hermosa, an apostolic sect, and more recently as the Russian Orthodox Church of Saint Herman of Alaska.

Rectangular in plan, the main hall or nave is approached

through a smaller gabled entry, the narthex. The chapel's steep pitched gable roofs and pointed lancet windows and entry door are hallmarks of the Gothic style. While Saint Herman's is in a sense "new" to Sunnyvale, it does represent one of the oldest extant church buildings in town and is the community's only example of the Carpenter Gothic architectural style.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR _____ SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A _____ B _____
C _____ D _____

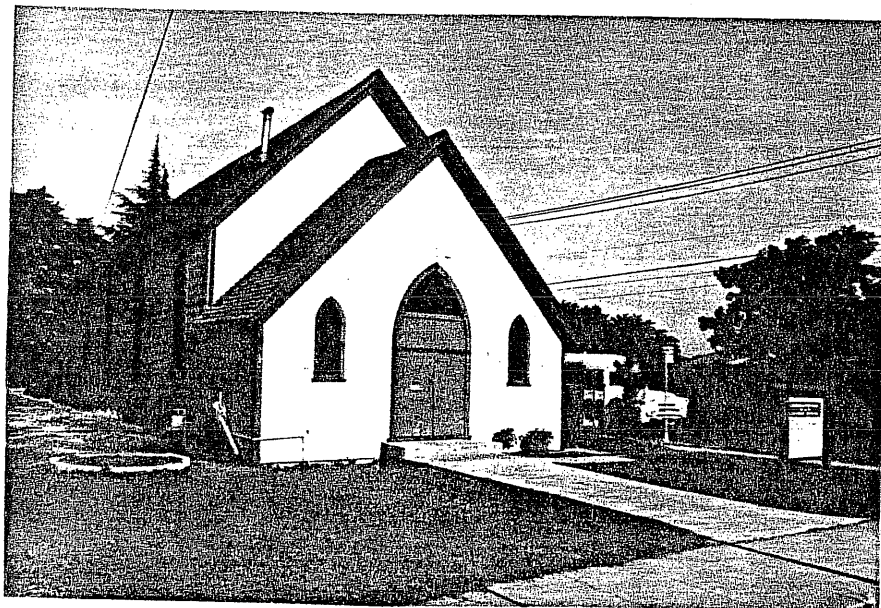
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Temple La Hermosa
2. Historic name: unknown
3. Street or rural address: 161 No. Murphy Ave.
City Sunnyvale Zip 94086 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: not available
5. Present Owner: " " Address: _____
City Sunnyvale Zip 94086 Ownership is: Public _____ Private x
6. Present Use: Church Original use: Church

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style:
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

The Apostolic Church, Temple La Hermosa, is Sunnyvale's only example of the Gothic Revival style. Rectangular in plan, a shingled, front gable roof covers the entry. A higher gabled roof covers the nave. Lancet windows, a hallmark of the style, flank the lancet arch entrance and line the side elevations. Stained glass accents the simple Gothic detailing and clapboards cover the exterior.



8. Construction date: pre-1920
Estimated _____ Factual _____
9. Architect unknown
10. Builder unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 80 Depth 100
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Aug. '79

13. Condition: Excellent _____ Good ☒ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: no exterior alterations
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land _____ Scattered buildings _____ Densely built-up _____
Residential ☒ Industrial _____ Commercial _____ Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known _____ Private development _____ Zoning _____ Vandalism _____
Public Works project _____ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? _____ Moved? _____ Unknown? ☒ _____
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

Temple LaHermosa is Sunnyvale's only remaining older church. It is significant for its historical associations and its Gothic Revival style.

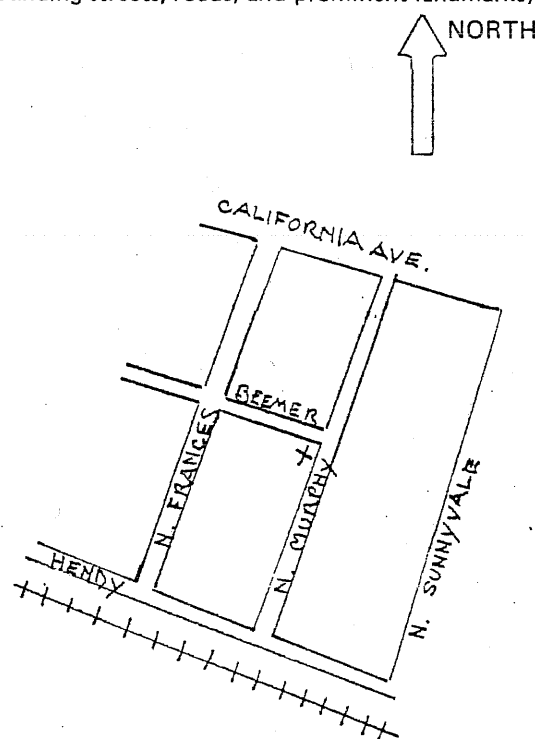
20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture ☒ Arts & Leisure _____
Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
Government _____ Military _____
Religion _____ Social/Education _____

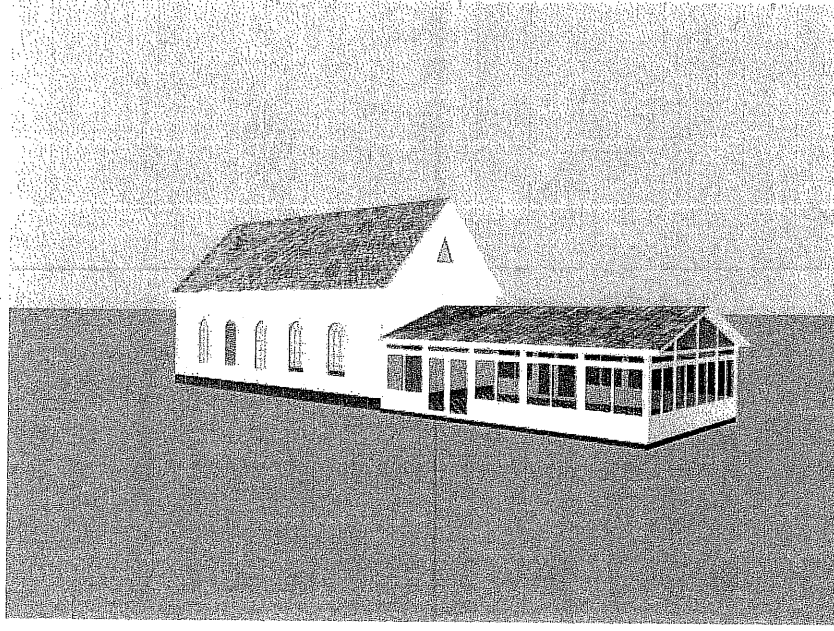
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

Sunnyvale Cultural Resources Survey, '79

22. Date form prepared Sept. '79
By (name) Urban/Rural Conservation for
Organization City of Sunnyvale
Address: 456 W. Olive
City Sunnyvale Zip 94086
Phone: 408 738-5467

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):





Submitted by:

American Brands Construction

2878 Prune Ave. 'A', Fremont, CA 94539
Phone 510.440.9850 Fax 510.490.0255
CSLB# 386207

St. Herman's Church

161 N. Murphy
Sunnyvale, CA
408.234.5639

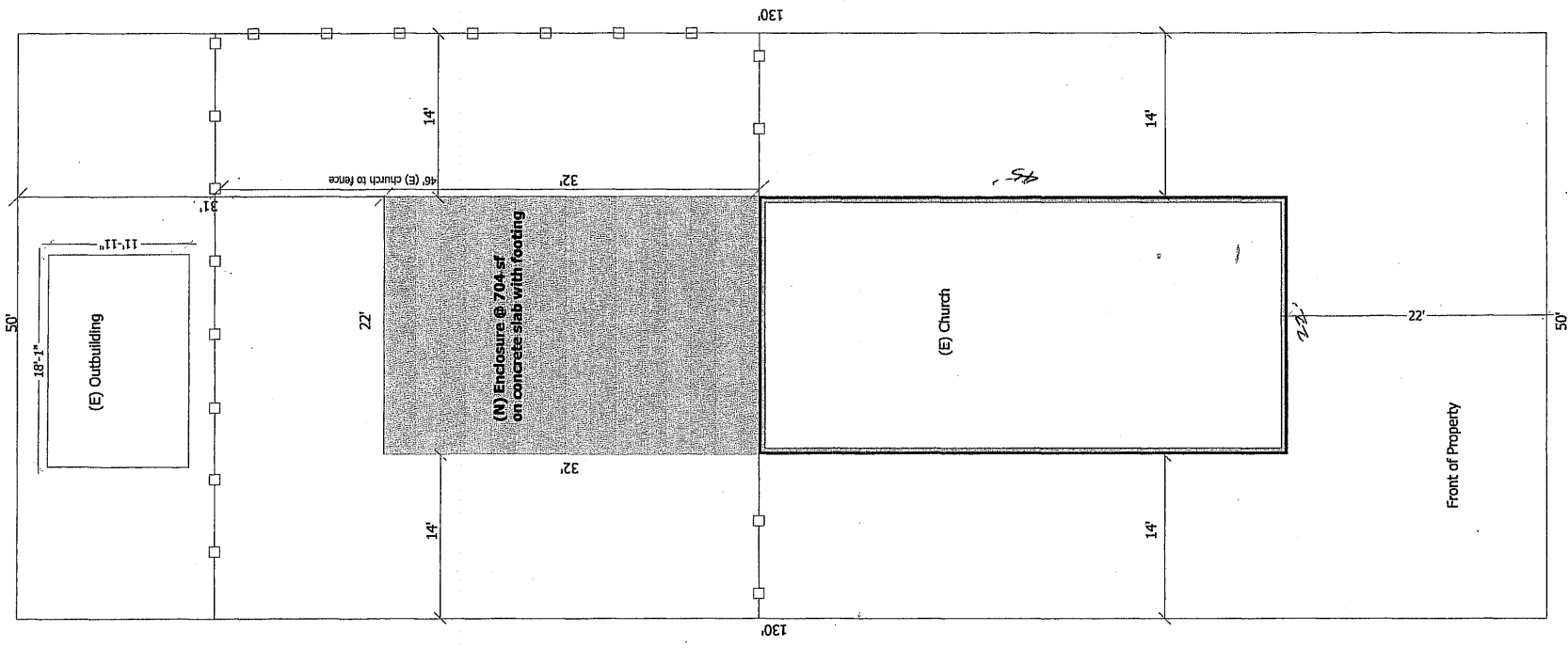
APN: 204-49-031 Zone R-2

Lot = 6500
Church = 990
Outbuilding = 216
Sunroom = 704
FAR = .29

12/28/05

Drawn
Scale

Page 1



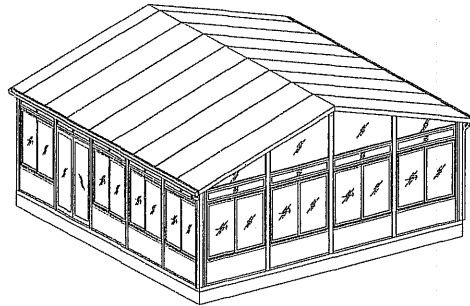
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Plot Plan

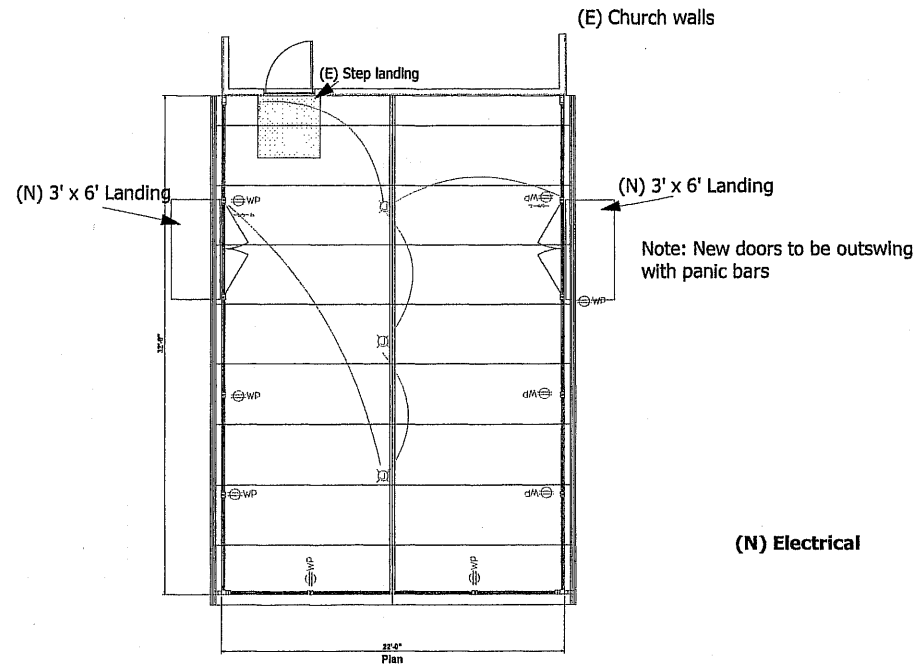
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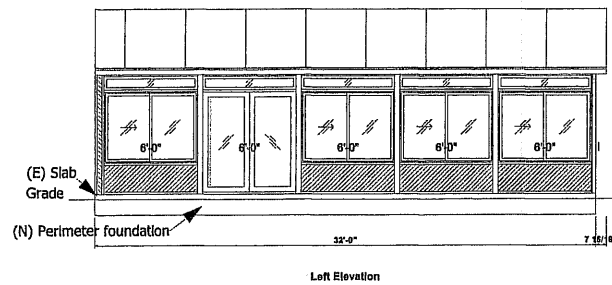
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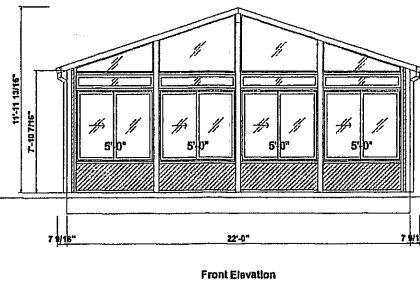
Axonometry



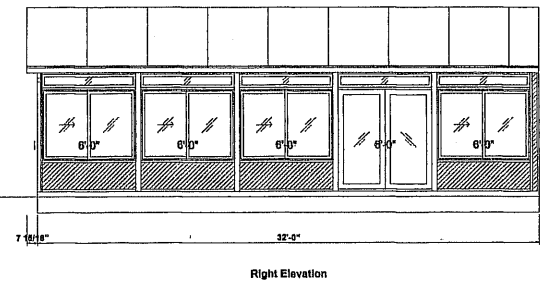
Sunroom page with electrical



Left Elevation



Front Elevation

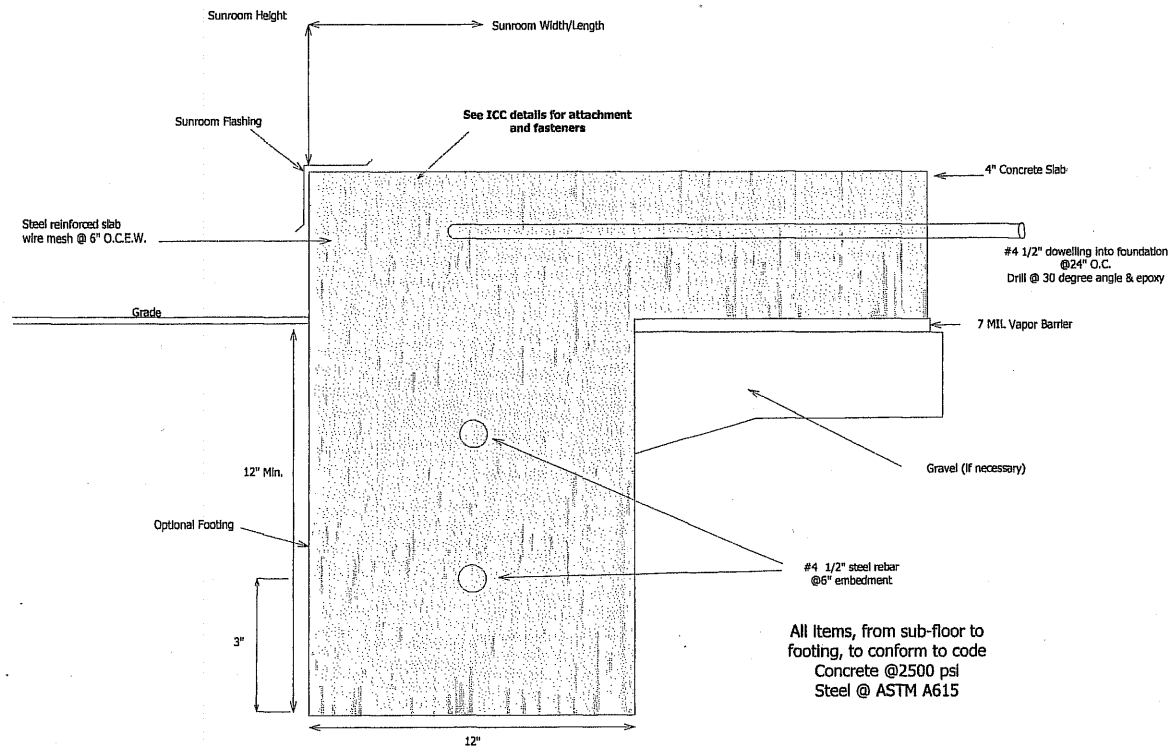


Right Elevation

Lot = 6500
 Church = 990
 Outbuilding = 216
 Sunroom = 704
 FAR = .29

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4" Monolithic slab typical
on optional footing

12/28/05

Drawn By

Scale

Page

Lot = 6500
Church = 990
Outbuilding = 216
Sunroom = 704
FAR = 29

St. Herman's Church

161 N. Murphy

Sunnyvale, CA

408.234.5639

APN: 204-49-031 Zone R-2

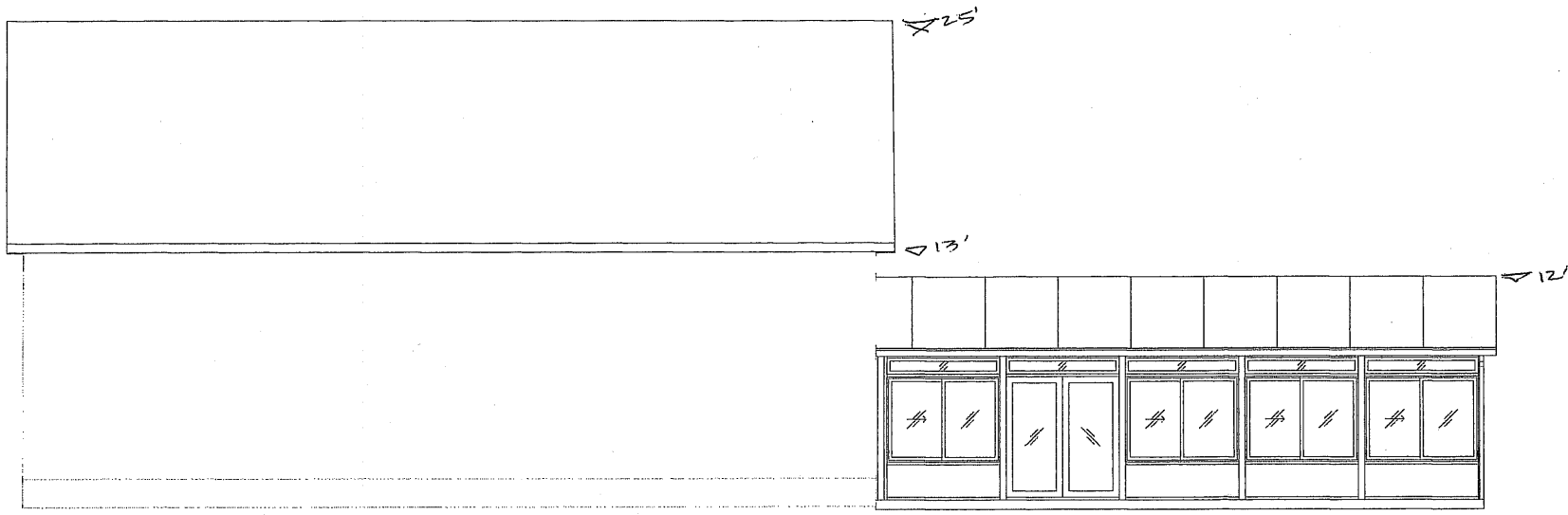
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Elevation

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